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A NEW COUNTY RECORD FOR CORNWALL,  
WITH OBSERVATIONS ON OTHER NOTABLE  
MACROLEPIDOPTERA IN THE COUNTY

By M. HADLEY\*

I was fortunate enough, in the company of Mr Mark Parsons to spend two weeks (24 August — 5 September 1981) on vacation in Cornwall. We enjoyed the best of the summer of 1981 with a spell of fine uninterrupted weather which brought to light some species of note to the county.

*Ipimorpha retusa* Linn., a new county record. This species was found by M. Parsons and J. Gregory at Breney Heath near Bodmin on the 26th August, a single specimen being captured. A follow up visit to the site on the 29th produced another five specimens though most were released due to damage. I would think it likely that this species could be found at other similar sites in the county where *Salix* carr has invaded old mine-workings.

*Tholera cespitis* D. & S., stated by the *Victoria County History* to be scarce and local. *T. cespitis* has been recorded from only the following localities, Falmouth (1905), Tresco on Scilly (1925), Redruth district (1943-58), Perranporth (recently), Coverack (1976), St. Agnes (1969) and Mullion Cove (1977). Bearing in mind the paucity of records for this species we add the following localities:— Polruan (1) 28.8.81, Porkellis Moor, Wendron (several) 27.8.81 and Breney Heath, Bodmin (1) 29.8.81.

*Lithosia quadra* Linn. There exists a general body of opinion that this species is now resident on the coast, the VCH recording *quadra* as 'widely distributed but local'. E. H. Wild et al. (1973, *Ent. Rec.* 85: 275-9) records the species from Menabilly as very common, with a nightly average of forty individuals, the best total recorded being seventy-two in one night. I was not therefore surprised to record five *quadra* at light at Polruan, just a few miles from Menabilly, four on the 28 August and one taken on the 1 September.

*Pterapherapteryx sexalata* Retzius seems from its recorded history to be a very elusive insect in the county with only three localities cited by R. Heckford. The VCH states a specimen was taken in 1905 close to Liskeard, F. Smith records the species from Perranporth (1962 and 1967), and John Gregory from Par (1978). The species was recorded from Breney Heath on 26.8.81 and 29.8.81.

Other species of note observed during the holiday were *Anarta myrtilli* Linn., recorded from Porkellis Moor, the larvae being swept from the top of heather on the 27 August, *Eupithecia phoeniciata* Rambur., taken twice at Polruan and suspected of breeding locally; specimens were taken on 26.8.81 and 2.9.81. The rather rare and local *Stilbia anomala* Haworth, and *Xestia castanea* Esp., were also recorded from Breney on 29.8.81.

\*Nature Conservancy Council, 19-20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

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My thanks are also due to Dr F Smith who gave me helpful advice, and to R Heckford who made available written notes on several of the species noted in this article and from which I have freely drawn information.

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THE SCARCE MERVEILLE-DU-JOUR: *MOMA ALPIUM* OSBECK AT ORLESTONE FOREST. — On 30 June 1981, I visited the Kent Trust Reserve (compartment 11) in Longrope Wood to discuss future management of the reserve with the Conservation Officer and two other members of the Trust. When we stopped in the middle of this block of oak woodland I just happened to look at the trunk of the oak tree next to me, and there, just above eye-height, was a freshly emerged *Moma alpium*. After admiring it, we made a point of having a good look at the trunk of every oak we passed after that, but found no more moths. I was, however, able to find the original moth again that evening to take some photographs of it; not easy at 6 feet up a tree trunk! No *alpina* appeared at two mv lights or a couple of dozen sugar patches in the wood that night, not even the one we knew was there, which had dropped like a stone into the undergrowth when I disturbed it, in an attempt to get it into a better position for photographing it. I see from the Forestry Commission permit holders' records that Messrs. R. F. Eley and R. Fairclough recorded this species at Orlestone in 1979. — M. ENFIELD, New Cottage, Warren Farm, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent.

COLEOPHORA POTENTILLAE ELISHA (LEP.: COLEOPHORIDAE) — SOME OBSERVATIONS. — Having collected a number of cases of what I had assumed to be *Coleophora violacea* Strom from birch in Havant Thicket, Hampshire, in the autumn of 1980, I was not a little astonished to find that the moths which emerged in May 1981 were practically all *C. potentillae*, only one of them being *violacea*. In October 1981 Col. D. H. Sterling and Mr. P. H. Sterling, collecting in the same locality, noted that cases of *potentillae* were particularly common on *Potentilla erecta*, and also feeding on *Betula* and *Salix atrocinerea* seedlings growing among the *Potentilla*. I think this is the first record of *potentillae* found on a foodplant other than *Rosaceae*.

In September 1981 Messrs. E. C. Pelham-Clinton, R. J. Heckford and I were collecting near Crackington Haven in Cornwall, and found *potentillae* to be extremely abundant. The cases were most common on *Prunus spinosa*, but also found on *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus* and *Potentilla erecta*. — J. R. LANGMAID, 38, Cumberland Court, Festing Road, Southsea, Hants.